

REMARKS

In response to the above-noted Office Action, Claims 2-5, 7-11 and 14-26 have been amended. Claims 1, 6, 12 and 13 have been cancelled. Claims 2-5, 7-11, and 14-26 remain.

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Richelsoph (U.S. Patent Number 6,740,086). In response, Applicant has Amended Claims 2-5, 7-11 and 14-26, and cancelled Claims 1, 6, 12 and 13.

Each of the independent claims 2 and 20 enclose a blocking element (5) which includes a seat (29) having a part cylindrical profile, a screw-threaded bore (30) and a tightening screw (31) which coacts with the screw-threaded bore end lugs (33, 34). Thus, the invented device includes an anchoring element (3) including a bottom (12) with part cylindrical profile and a blocking element 5 with part cylindrical profile. As best seen in Figure 1, these two elements cooperate so as to be able to secure a cylindrical rod (2). What the Examiner construes as equivalent to Applicant's claimed blocking element is shown in Figure 17 of Richelsoph which is shown as including a plug securing mechanism (52). This element of Richelsoph does not include a seat with part cylindrical profile as defined by Applicant. The element the Examiner refers to as the blocking element of Richelsoph also does not include lateral services (25, 26, 27, 28) parallel two by two as best seen in Figure 3 with respect to Claim 2, or teeth having a hooking profile (40, 41) turn inwardly of a second opening (39) and above the central surface (13) of each vertical wall which also include above the hooking portions and inclined external profile (42, 43) prolonged in the outward direction by a convexly curved profile (44, 45) with respect to claim 20 as best seen, for example, by comparing these elements shown in Figures 13 and 14 of the application and comparing them with the structure shown in Figure 17 of Richelsoph.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all outstanding requirements have been addressed, and the claims pending for examination, namely claims 2-5, 7-11, and 14-26 are now in condition for allowance, which early action is requested.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 8/6/07, 2007

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage, as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 8-6-07.

Linda Metz 8-6-07
Linda Metz Date